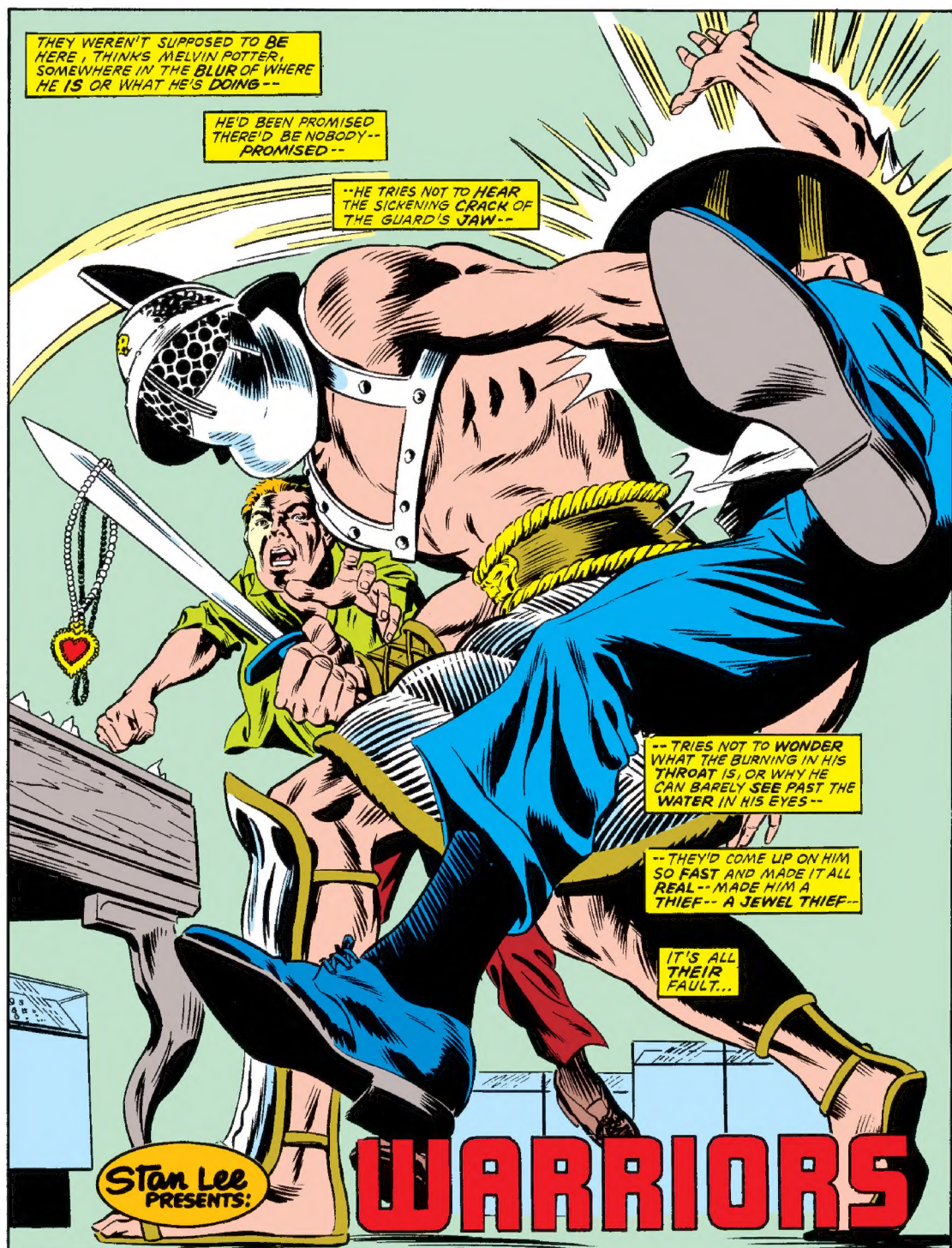


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DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR





THEY WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE
HERE, THINKS MELVIN POTTER.
SOMEWHERE IN THE BLUR OF WHERE
HE IS OR WHAT HE'S DOING--

HE'D BEEN PROMISED
THERE'D BE NOBODY--
PROMISED--

--HE TRIES NOT TO HEAR
THE SICKENING CRACK OF
THE GUARD'S JAW--

-- TRIES NOT TO WONDER
WHAT THE BURNING IN HIS
THROAT IS, OR WHY HE
CAN BARELY SEE PAST THE
WATER IN HIS EYES--

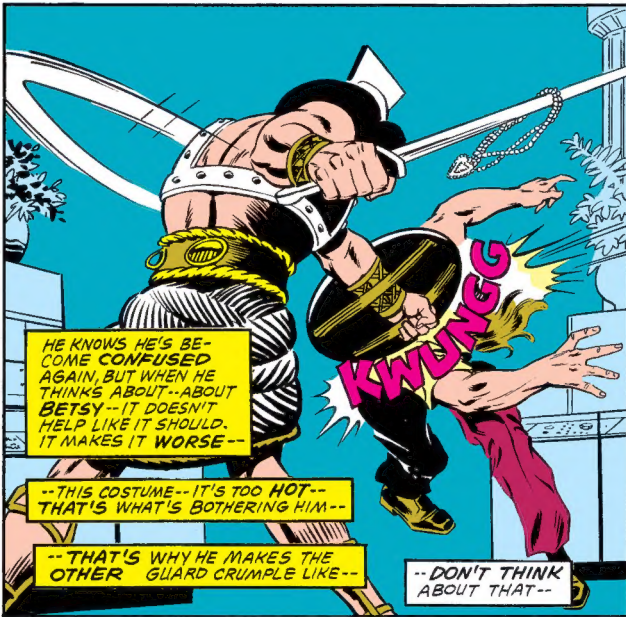
-- THEY'D COME UP ON HIM
SO FAST AND MADE IT ALL
REAL-- MADE HIM A
THIEF-- A JEWEL THIEF--

IT'S ALL
THEIR
FAULT...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

WARRIORS

DENNY O'NEIL & FRANK MILLER / DAVID MAZZUCHELLI & DENNIS JANKE / MAX SCHEELE / JOE ROSEN / RALPH MACCHIO / JIM SHOOTER
STORY ART COLOR LETTERS EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

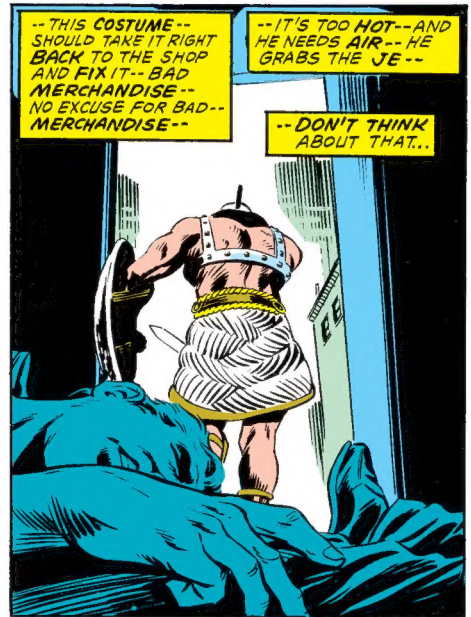


HE KNOWS HE'S BE-
COME CONFUSED
AGAIN, BUT WHEN HE
THINKS ABOUT--ABOUT
BETSY--IT DOESN'T
HELP LIKE IT SHOULD.
IT MAKES IT WORSE--

--THIS COSTUME--IT'S TOO HOT--
THAT'S WHAT'S BOTHERING HIM--

--THAT'S WHY HE MAKES THE
OTHER GUARD CRUMPLE LIKE--

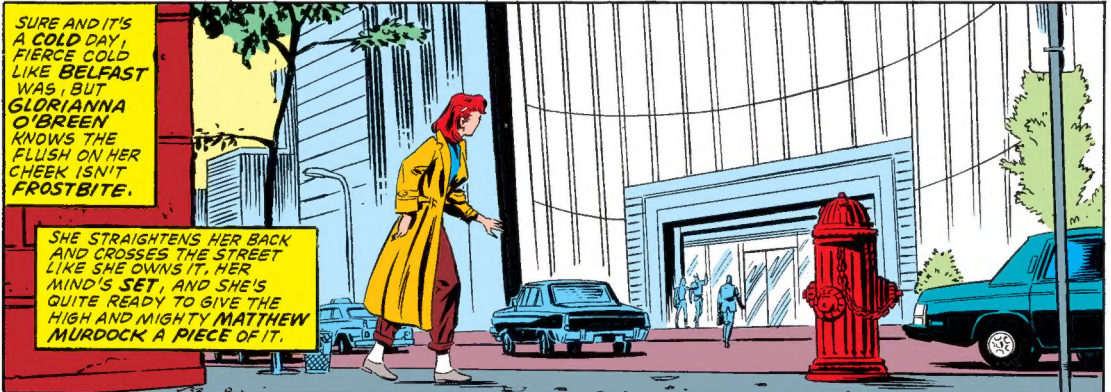
--DON'T THINK
ABOUT THAT--



--THIS COSTUME--
SHOULD TAKE IT RIGHT
BACK TO THE SHOP
AND FIX IT--BAD
MERCHANDISE--
NO EXCUSE FOR BAD--
MERCHANDISE--

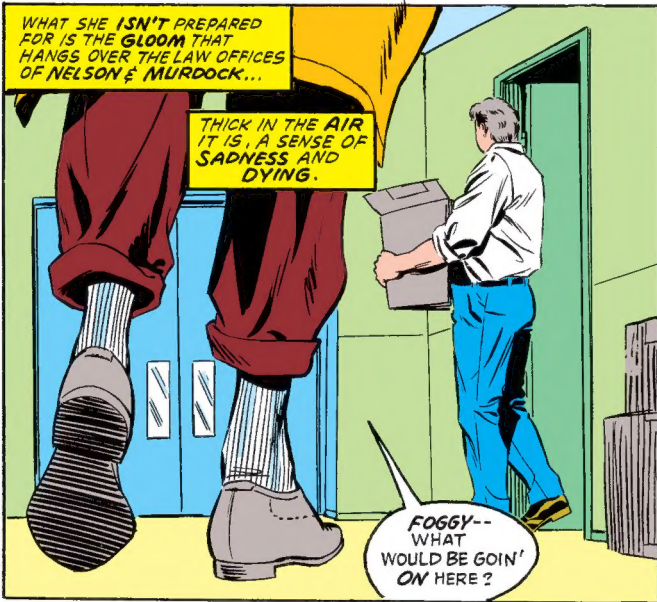
--IT'S TOO HOT--AND
HE NEEDS AIR-- HE
GRABS THE JE--

--DON'T THINK
ABOUT THAT..



SURE AND IT'S
A COLD DAY,
FIERCE COLD
LIKE BELFAST
WAS, BUT
GLORIANNA
O'BREEN
KNOWS THE
FLUSH ON HER
CHEEK ISN'T
FROSTBITE.

SHE STRAIGHTENS HER BACK
AND CROSSES THE STREET
LIKE SHE OWNS IT. HER
MIND'S SET, AND SHE'S
QUITE READY TO GIVE THE
HIGH AND MIGHTY MATTHEW
MURDOCK A PIECE OF IT.



WHAT SHE ISN'T PREPARED
FOR IS THE GLOOM THAT
HANGS OVER THE LAW OFFICES
OF NELSON & MURDOCK...

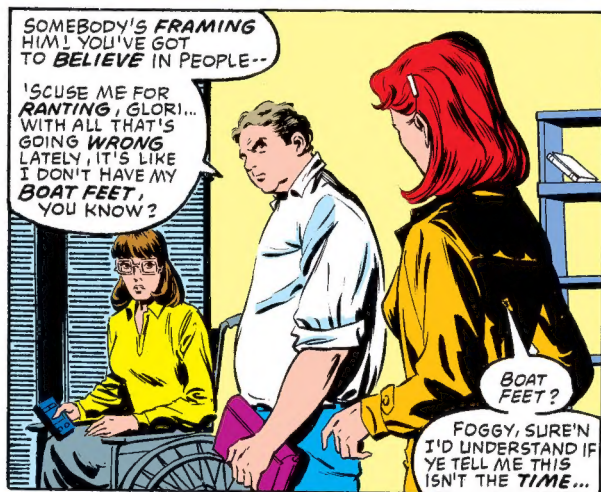
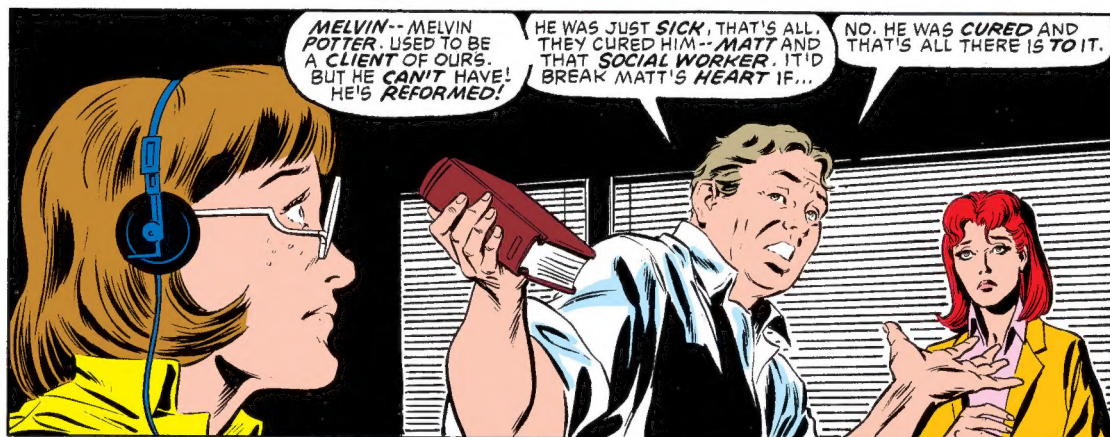
THICK IN THE AIR
IT IS, A SENSE OF
SADNESS AND
DYING.

FOGGY--
WHAT
WOULD BE GOIN'
ON HERE?



GLORI--
HI-- WE--

GOLLY--
YOU LOOK--
OOPS!



HE WAS RUNNING ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS WHEN IT HIT HIM.

HE WAS NOTICING HOW BEAUTIFULLY HE DANCED--AND YES, HE DIDN'T MIND FLAUNTING IT, IF ONLY TO HIMSELF. I'M TERRIFIC AT THIS, HE THOUGHT. I'M IN TERRIFIC SHAPE FOR MY AGE."

THAT WAS THE THOUGHT THAT STOPPED HIM COLD. CUTTING THROUGH THE GREY HAZE IN HIS HEAD.

FOR MY AGE, THINKS MATT MURDOCK. MY AGE.

I'M NOT EVEN THIRTY YET.

...ONE DISASTER AFTER ANOTHER, AND EVERYONE PUTTING THE BLAME ON ME. EVERYONE I LOVED OR TRUSTED.

FOGGY--MY PARTNER-- COULDN'T PICK UP JUST A LITTLE SLACK AND KEEP THE LAW FIRM GOING AND HEATHER...

...YEAH, HEATHER-- WHY BE AFRAID TO THINK OF HER NAME?--KILLED HERSELF... THIS ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE I HAVE TO DEAL WITH...

...BUT THAT'S WHAT LIFE HAS TURNED INTO. ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER TO DEAL WITH.

HE FEELS THE CUT OF THE OCTOBER WIND HEARS THE DULL THROB OF NEW YORK CITY BELOW HIM. HE WONDERS WHEN THE CITY STARTED MAKING HIM SICK.

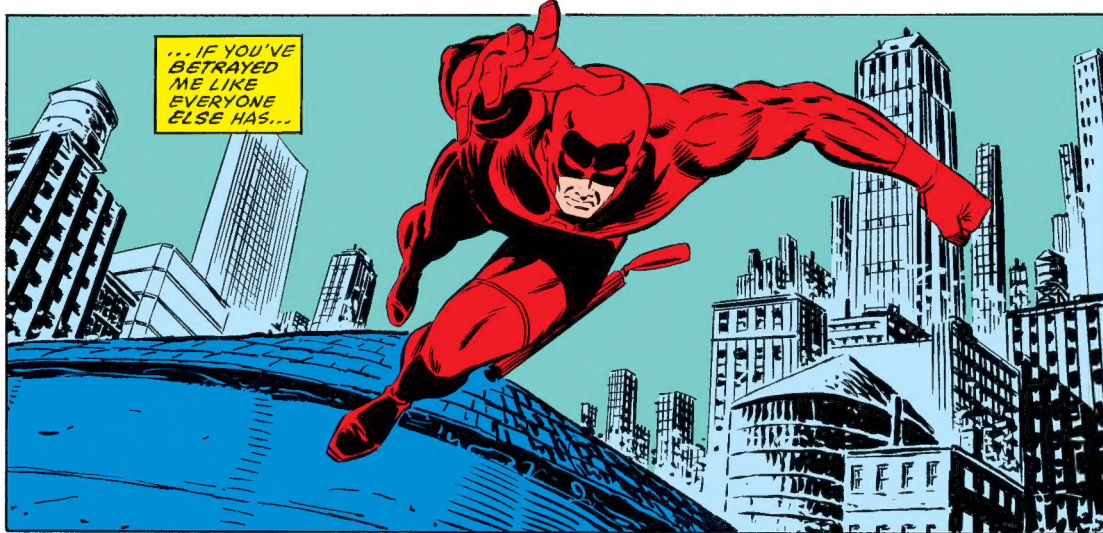
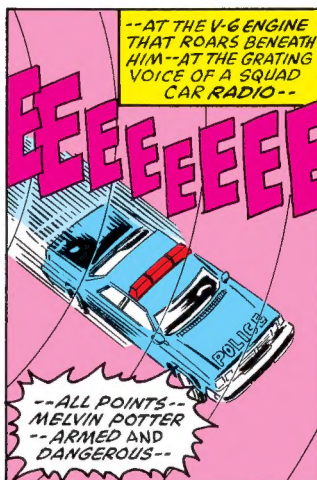
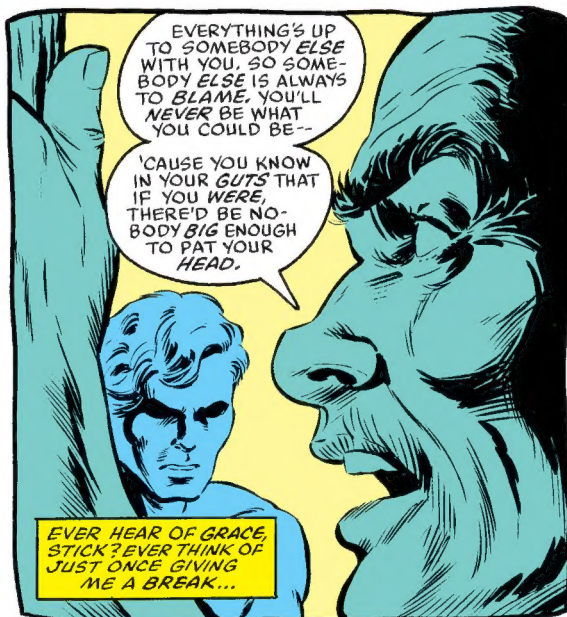
THE CITY OF THINGS TO DEAL WITH.

HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN DAREDEVIL? HOW LONG, EVEN, SINCE THE WORLD THREW THAT ISOTOPE IN MY FACE, MAKING ME A BLIND MAN?

OH, SURE, I BUILT UP MY OTHER SENSES... THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN SMELL OR HEAR LIKE I DO--BUT IT STRUCK ME BLIND, AND IT WASN'T THE LAST BAD THING TO STRIKE ME..."

...THERE'S TWO SIDES TO YOU, PUNK--ONE STUDIES AND READS, THE OTHER TRAINS--AND FIGHTS.

PROBLEM IS, PUNK -- AIN'T NEITHER OF THEM SIDES YOURS!



BETSY BEATTY IGNORES THE PAIN AND STARES OUT THE WINDOW AND STRAINS TO FIND A LANDMARK.

THEY MIGHT PUT HER ON THE TELEPHONE WITH MELVIN AGAIN. IF SHE KNOWS WHAT PART OF THE CITY SHE'S IN, SHE MIGHT GIVE HIM A CLUE.

THE ROPES ARE TIGHT AROUND HER, CUTTING OFF THE FLOW OF BLOOD TO HER FEET AND HANDS. SHE'D ASKED THEM TO LOOSEN THE ROPES, VERY POLITELY, AND THE SMALLEST ONE HAD PUNCHED HER IN THE STOMACH.

BUT NOW THE NEWS HAS COME OVER THE TV AND THE MEN ARE TALKING ABOUT CALLING MELVIN-- AND IF THEY YELL AT HIM ... BETSY BEATTY MAKES HER VOICE VERY CALM...

YOU'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH MELVIN. HE'S UPSET. IF YOU MAKE HIM AFRAID-- AND HE'S AFRAID OF YOU MEN, YOU CAN BE SURE OF THAT--

...AND YOU WON'T GET THE REST OF THE MONEY YOU--

THEY WILL TAPE HER MOUTH SHUT IF SHE SPEAKS TOO LOUDLY OR TOO FREQUENTLY. SO SHE HAS BEEN QUIET, REMEMBERING EVERYTHING SHE HAS LEARNED ABOUT HANDLING SOCIOPATHS.

--BUT HE COULD GO OFF THE EDGE. THEN HE WON'T BE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING AS COMPLICATED AS ROBBERY...

WE SAY WHATEVER WE WANT TO THAT JERK. HE SCREWED UP ALREADY-- PUTTING THAT COSTUME ON.

STUPID... LIKE HE WANTS DAREDEVIL ON HIS CASE.

MAN, HIT HER LIKE THAT AGAIN AND SHE WON'T HAVE NO SAKE...

YEAH, HE STUPID. BUT HE BETTER RAISE THAT MILLION. FOR HER SAKE.

BETSY BEATTY THINKS OF EVERY BATTERED WIFE SHE'S EVER HELD IN HER ARMS. EVERY WORD SHE'S EVER SAID TO THEM SEEMS IDIOTIC.

FROM A DISTANCE, ALMOST CLINICALLY, SHE FEELS HER TONGUE RUN ALONG THE GREAT RAW MASS IN HER MOUTH, INSPECTING, LOOKING FOR BROKEN TEETH.

IT COSTS SO MUCH TO GET A TOOTH REPAIRED.

THE CHRYSLER BUILDING LOOKS BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT.

SHE CAN SEE THE CHRYSLER BUILDING.

SHE CAN SEE THE CHRYSLER BUILDING... SO BETSY BEATTY KNOWS WHERE SHE IS.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ON HER MOUTH--!

THE ROOM SMELLS AWFUL
AND HE'S SEEN THREE
COCKROACHES AND A
WATER BUG THE SIZE OF
A WALNUT.

BUT MELVIN POTTER IS
SAFE HERE, SAFE FROM
DAREDEVIL AND THE
POLICE, AND THIS IS
WHERE THE MEN TOLD
HIM TO GO. HE'LL STAY
HERE, RIGHT HERE, UNTIL
MIDNIGHT WHEN HE--

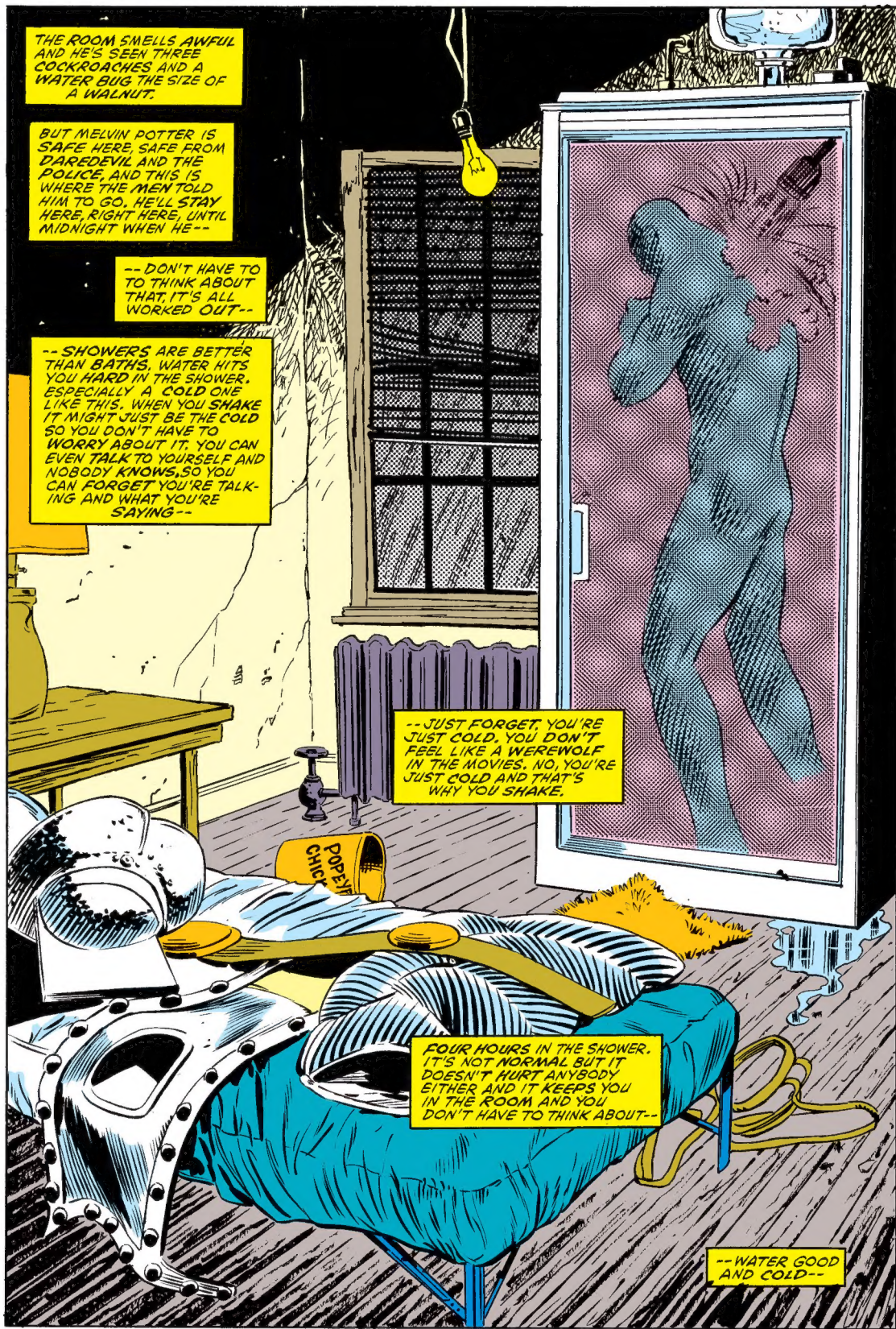
-- DON'T HAVE TO
TO THINK ABOUT
THAT, IT'S ALL
WORKED OUT--

-- SHOWERS ARE BETTER
THAN BATHS. WATER HITS
YOU HARD IN THE SHOWER,
ESPECIALLY A COLD ONE
LIKE THIS. WHEN YOU SHAKE
IT MIGHT JUST BE THE COLD
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU CAN
EVEN TALK TO YOURSELF AND
NOBODY KNOWS, SO YOU
CAN FORGET YOU'RE TALK-
ING AND WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING--

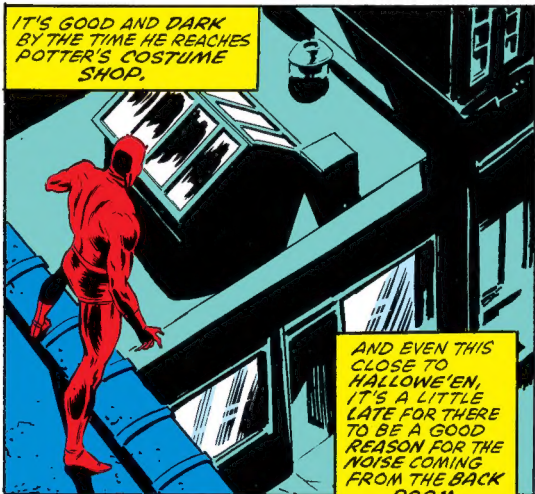
-- JUST FORGET. YOU'RE
JUST COLD. YOU DON'T
FEEL LIKE A WEREWOLF
IN THE MOVIES. NO, YOU'RE
JUST COLD AND THAT'S
WHY YOU SHAKE.

FOUR HOURS IN THE SHOWER.
IT'S NOT NORMAL BUT IT
DOESN'T HURT ANYBODY
EITHER AND IT KEEPS YOU
IN THE ROOM AND YOU
DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT--

-- WATER GOOD
AND COLD--



IT'S GOOD AND DARK
BY THE TIME HE REACHES
POTTER'S COSTUME
SHOP.



AND EVEN THIS
CLOSE TO
HALLOWE'EN,
IT'S A LITTLE
LATE FOR THERE
TO BE A GOOD
REASON FOR THE
NOISE COMING
FROM THE BACK
ROOM.

HE'S LOOKING
FOR A CLUE--
SOMETHING TO
SILENCE THE
VOICE IN HIS
HEAD THAT KEEPS
SAYING MELVIN
IS INNOCENT.



A CAT BURGLAR
COULDN'T BREAK
IN AS QUICKLY
AS HE DOES--



-- A BLOOD-
HOUND
COULDN'T
SO SWIFTLY
IDENTIFY
THE MEN
BY THEIR
SCENTS.



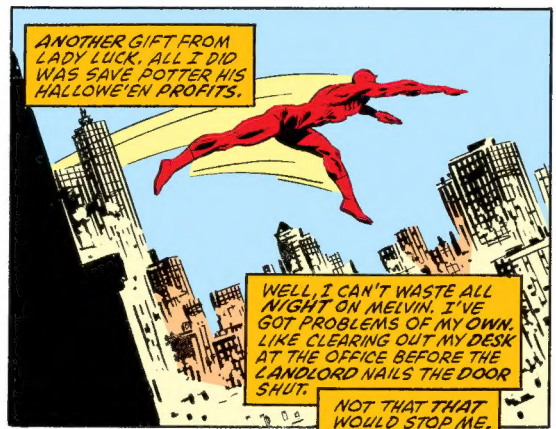
HE KNOWS THEM,
EACH OF THEM.
THEY'RE NO
FRIENDS OF
MELVIN.

BUT THEY'LL DO.

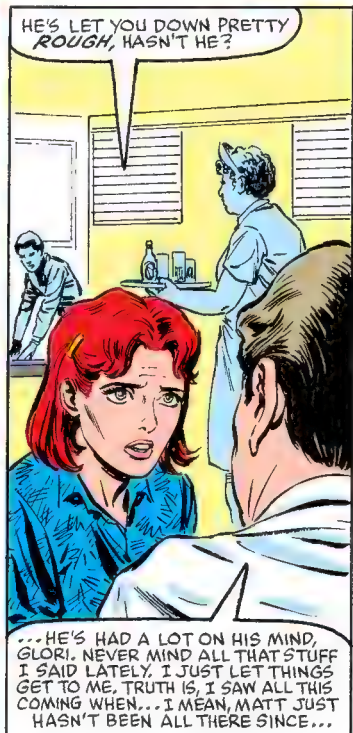
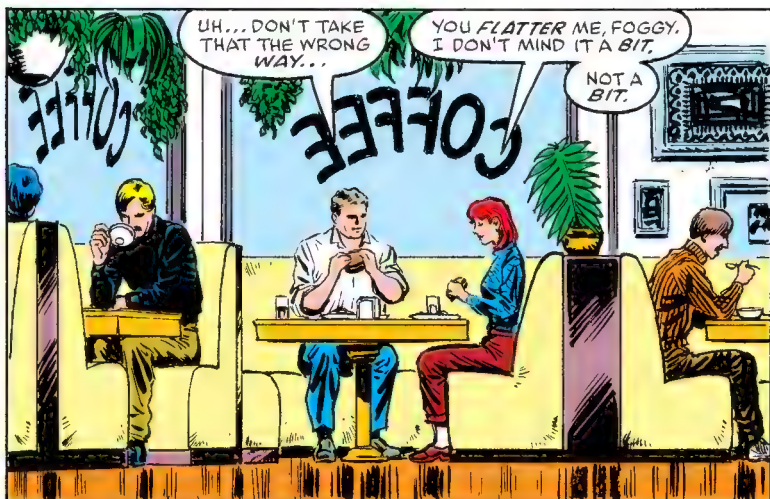
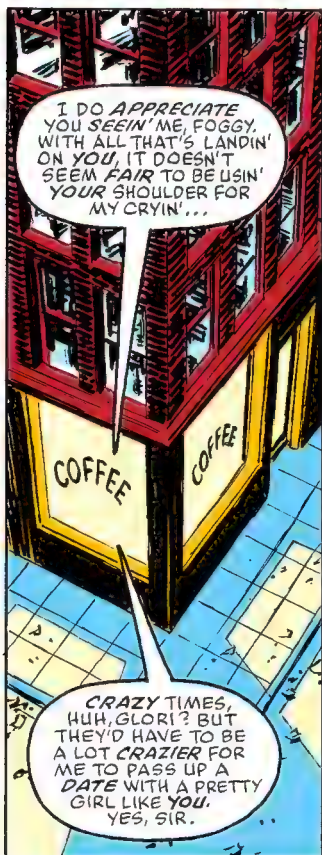


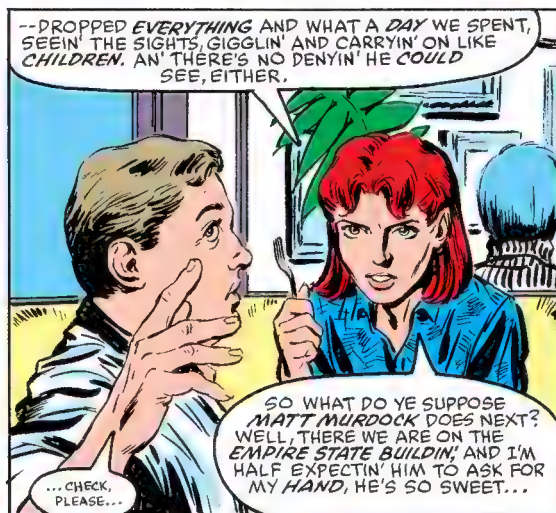
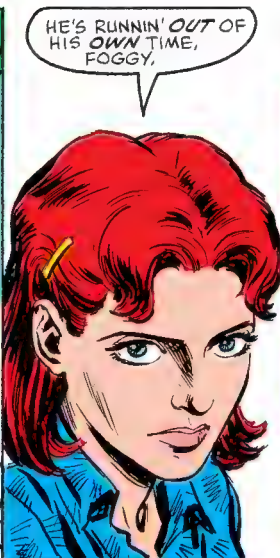
THEY'LL
DO.

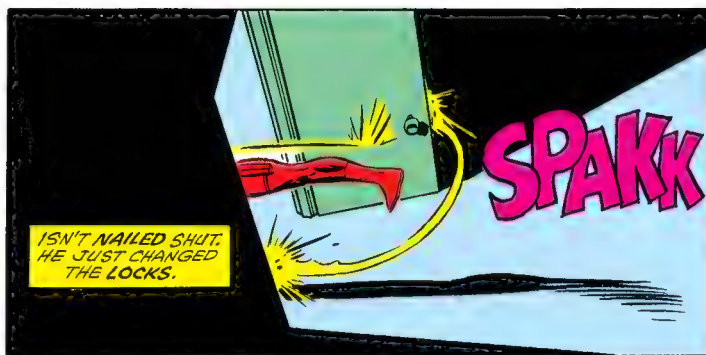
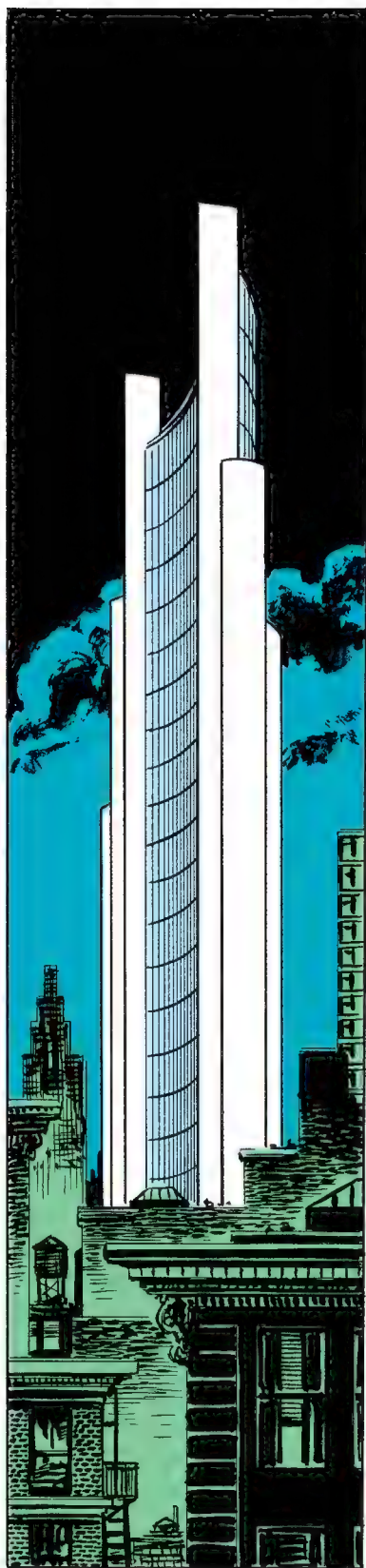




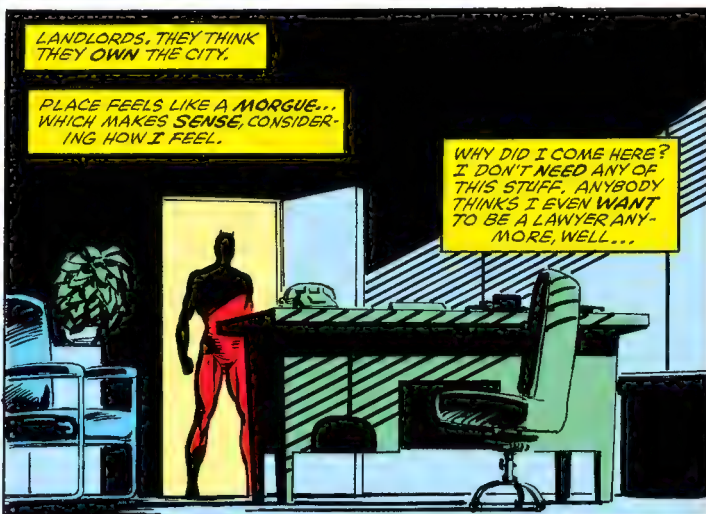
MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE NORTH OF EIGHTY-SIXTH STREET...







ISN'T NAILED SHUT.
HE JUST CHANGED
THE LOCKS.



LANDLORDS, THEY THINK
THEY OWN THE CITY.

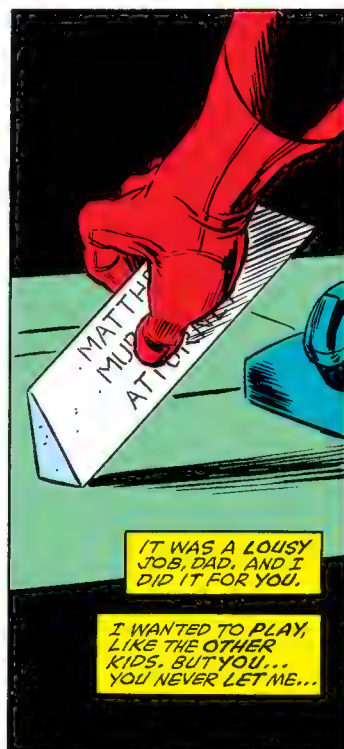
PLACE FEELS LIKE A MORGUE...
WHICH MAKES SENSE, CONSIDER-
ING HOW I FEEL.

WHY DID I COME HERE?
I DON'T NEED ANY OF
THIS STUFF, ANYBODY
THINKS I EVEN WANT
TO BE A LAWYER ANY-
MORE, WELL...



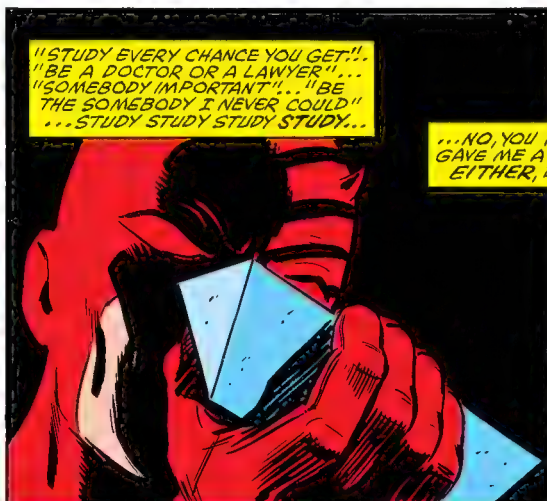
...WELL, I'D HAVE TO BE
ASKED, PRETTY NICELY,
THAT'S FOR SURE.

I NEVER LIKED THIS JOB.
HELPING CRIMINALS
GET OFF THE HOOK...
HELPING HUSBANDS AND
WIVES, WHO DIDN'T HAVE
THE NERVE TO FACE EACH
OTHER, FIGHT OVER THEIR
CHILDREN...

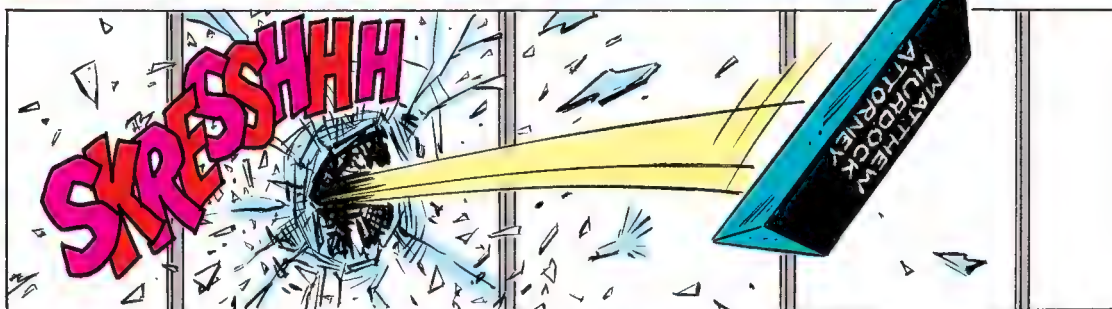


IT WAS A LOUSY
JOB, DAD, AND I
DID IT FOR YOU.

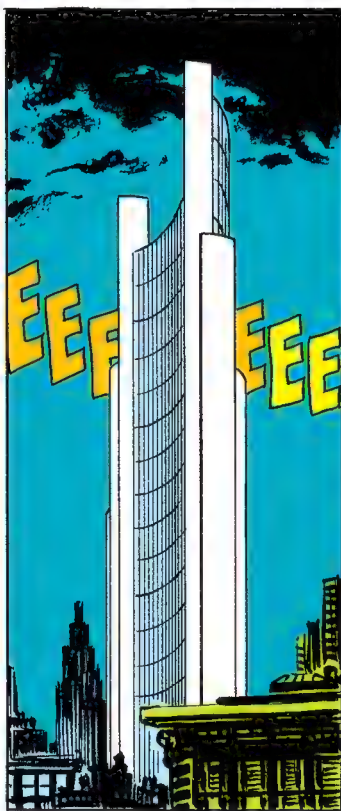
I WANTED TO PLAY,
LIKE THE OTHER
KIDS. BUT YOU...
YOU NEVER LET ME...

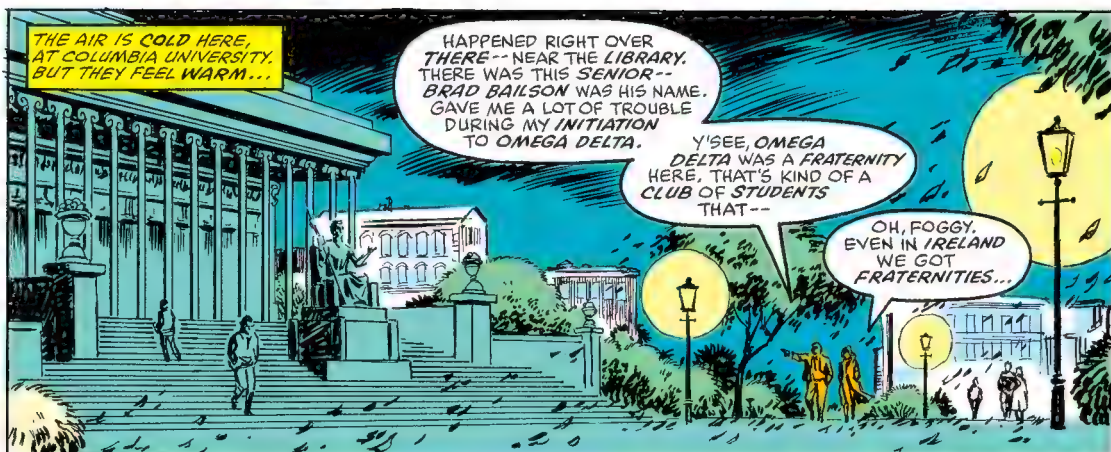


...NO, YOU NEVER
GAVE ME A BREAK,
EITHER, DAD--



SO OF COURSE THE BURGLAR
ALARM GOES OFF. PAID ENOUGH
TO INSTALL IT.





THE AIR IS COLD HERE,
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.
BUT THEY FEEL WARM...

HAPPENED RIGHT OVER
THERE-- NEAR THE LIBRARY.
THERE WAS THIS SENIOR--
BRAD BAILSON WAS HIS NAME.
GAVE ME A LOT OF TROUBLE
DURING MY INITIATION
TO OMEGA DELTA.

Y'SEE, OMEGA
DELTA WAS A FRATERNITY
HERE, THAT'S KIND OF A
CLUB OF STUDENTS
THAT--

OH, FOGGY,
EVEN IN IRELAND
WE GOT
FRATERNITIES...



SPOSE YOU *DO*, COME TO THINK OF IT.
ANYWAY, THEY MADE ME DO LOTS OF
DUMB STUFF, AND BRAD, HE WAS
ALWAYS MAKING IT WORSE,
ALWAYS RIDING ME.

THERE'S THIS NARROW
PIPE THAT RUNS FROM THE
BASEMENT UNDERGROUND
OUT TO THE RIVER. WASN'T
USED FOR ANYTHING ANY-
MORE, AND THE DELTA BOYS,
WELL, THEY TOLD ME I
HAD TO CRAWL THROUGH
IT.

BOY, WAS IT SCARY, DARK, AND TIGHT
--Y'SEE, I WAS PRETTY CHUBBY
BACK THEN, MATT. HE TOLD ME
NOT TO DO IT. MATT NEVER HAD
ANY USE FOR FRATERNITIES...



SO I WAS IN THERE, PUFFING AND
SQUEEZING ALONG, AND, WELL, BEST I
CAN FIGURE IT, BRAD HAD GOTTEN AN
INDUSTRIAL WATER HOSE, AND WAS
GOING TO FILL THE PIPE UP.
I COULD'VE DROWNED,

BUT LIKE I SAID, I FIGURED
THAT OUT LATER. 'CAUSE
NOTHING HAPPENED TO ME
WHILE I WAS IN THE PIPE,
AND WHEN I CAME OUT, I
HEARD EVERYBODY LAUGHING
...NATURALLY I THOUGHT
THEY WERE LAUGHING
AT ME...



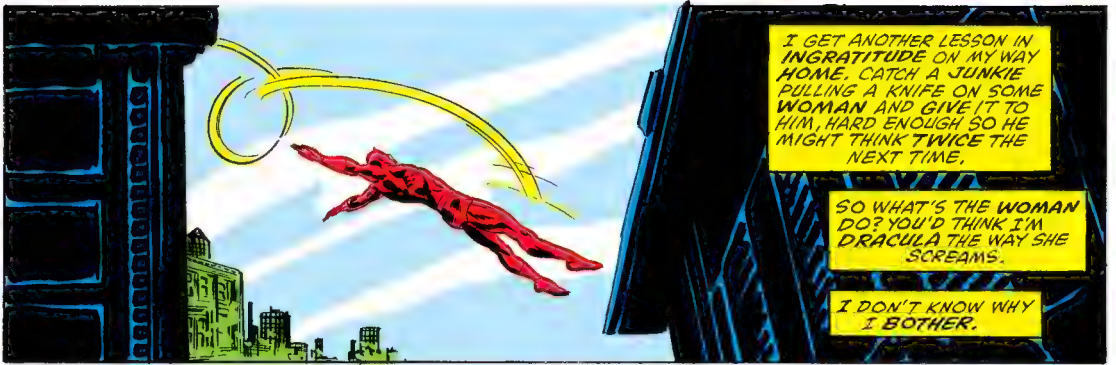
...BUT THEY WEREN'T, IT WAS
BRAD, HANGING FROM THE THIRD
FLOOR WINDOW, TIED HEAD TO
TOE IN THAT HOSE OF HIS, CURSING
AND SWEARING TO BEAT THE
BAND, GOLLY, IT WAS SO FUNNY...

...TO THIS DAY MATT WON'T ADMIT
HE DID IT, OR TELL ME HOW. BUT
NOBODY ELSE WOULD'VE... I WISH
YOU'D KNOWN MATT BACK THEN,
GLORI... HE WAS...



Y'KNOW, I NEVER NOTICED HOW
ROMANTIC THIS PLACE LOOKS
AT NIGHT...

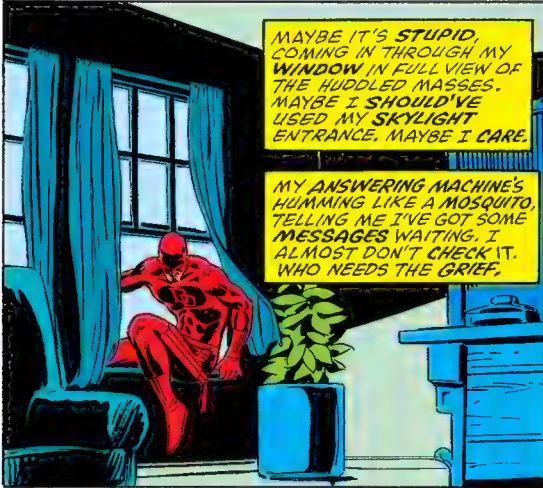
STRANGE HOW THAT
WORKS, ISN'T IT?...



I GET ANOTHER LESSON IN INGRATITUDE ON MY WAY HOME. CATCH A JUNKIE PULLING A KNIFE ON SOME WOMAN AND GIVE IT TO HIM, HARD ENOUGH SO HE MIGHT THINK TWICE THE NEXT TIME.

SO WHAT'S THE WOMAN DO? YOU'D THINK I'M DRACULA THE WAY SHE SCREAMS.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER.



MAYBE IT'S STUPID, COMING IN THROUGH MY WINDOW IN FULL VIEW OF THE HUDDLED MASSES. MAYBE I SHOULD'VE USED MY SKYLIGHT ENTRANCE. MAYBE I CARE.

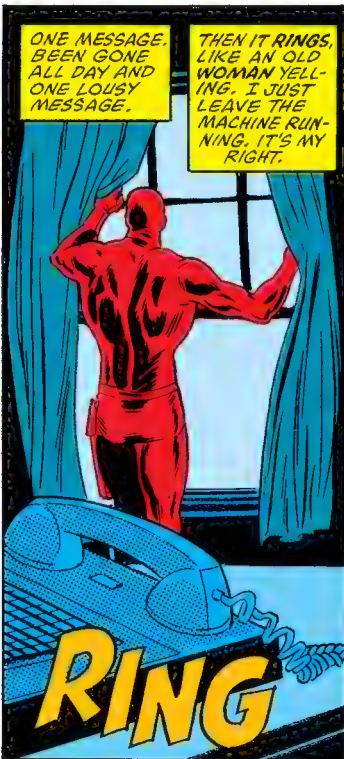
MY ANSWERING MACHINE'S HUMMING LIKE A MOSQUITO, TELLING ME I'VE GOT SOME MESSAGES WAITING. I ALMOST DON'T CHECK IT. WHO NEEDS THE GRIEF.



WELL, IT MIGHT BE SOME GOOD NEWS, SURE. AND CHRISTMAS MIGHT COME TWICE THIS YEAR.

BEEP MATT, THIS IS GLORI AGAIN. I...OH, NEVER MIND. KLIK

OOOH. COLD.



ONE MESSAGE. BEEN GONE ALL DAY AND ONE LOUSY MESSAGE.

THEN IT RINGS, LIKE AN OLD WOMAN YELLING. I JUST LEAVE THE MACHINE RUNNING. IT'S MY RIGHT.



BESIDES, I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE DEALING WITH FOGGY OR GLORI OR...

... MELVIN, MR. MURDOCK, MELVIN POTTER... UM...I...I NEED HELP...

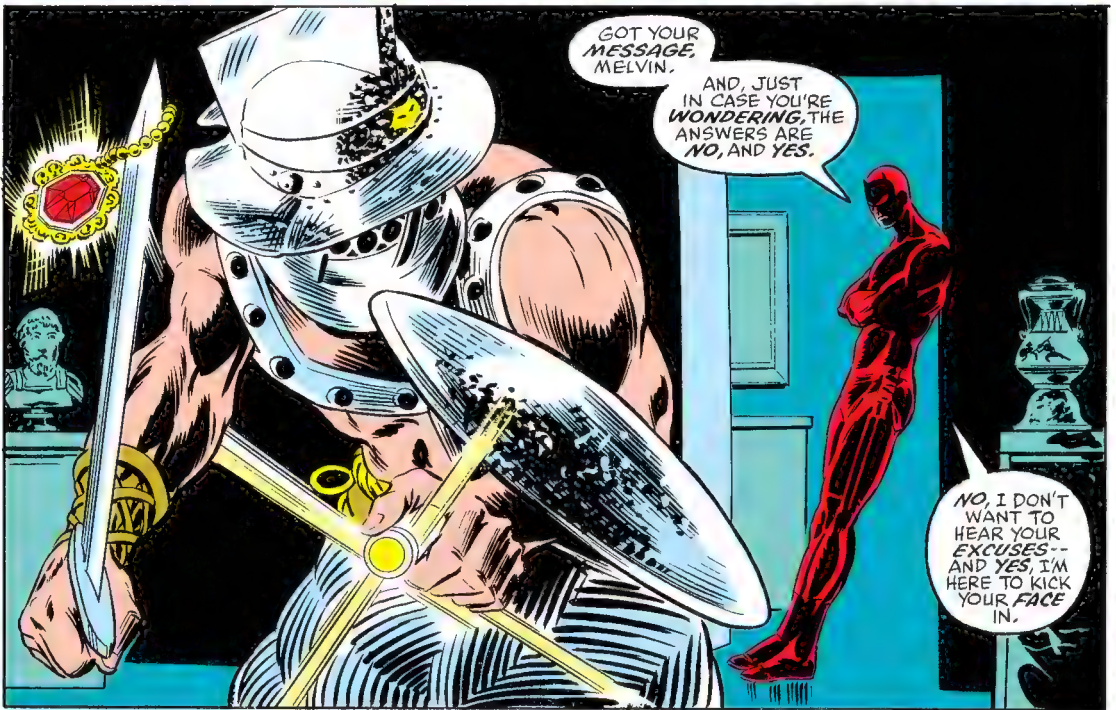
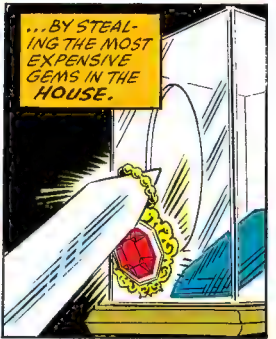
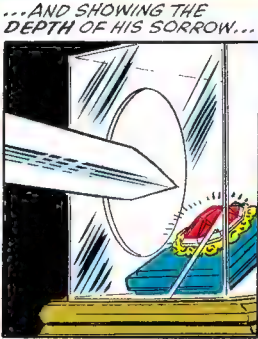
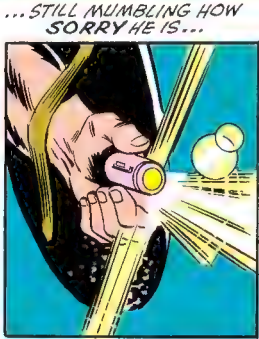
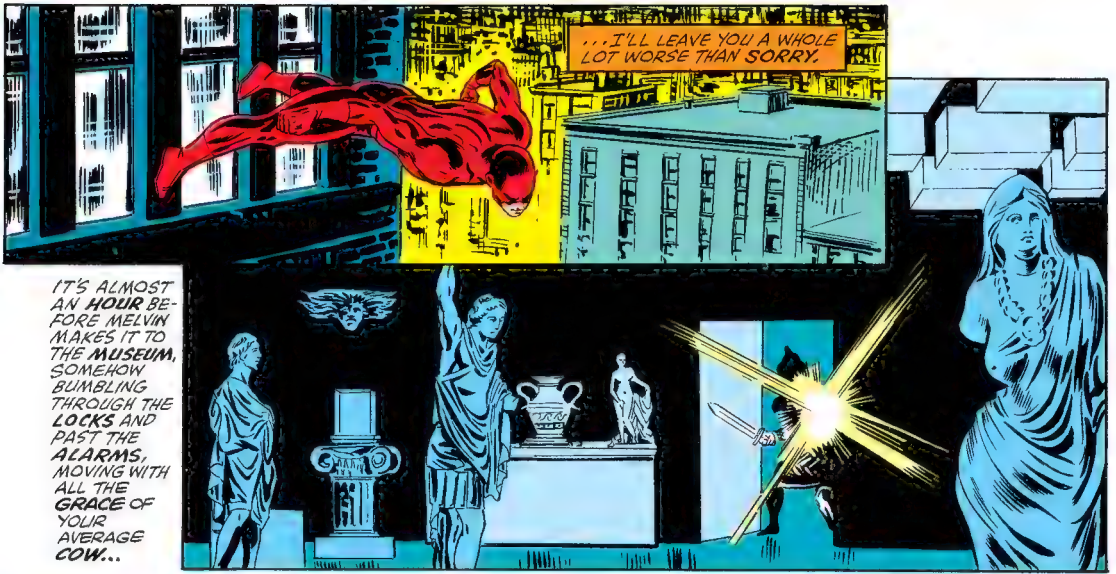
YOU AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, ALWAYS COMING TO ME...

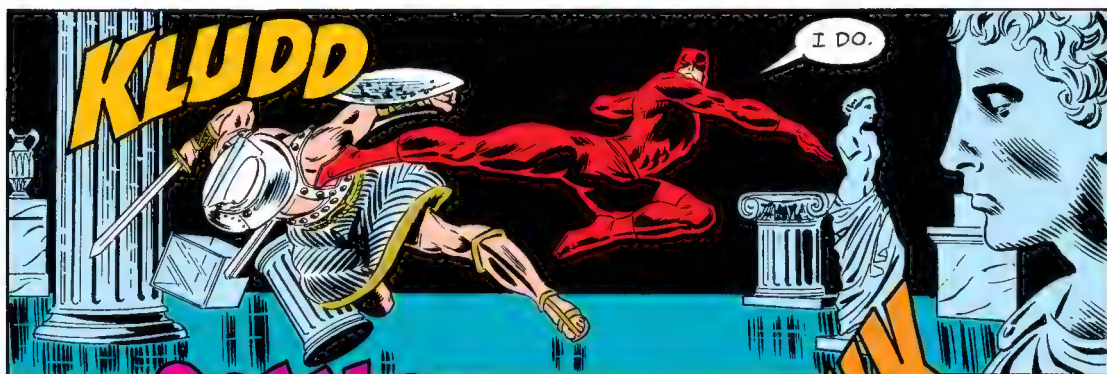
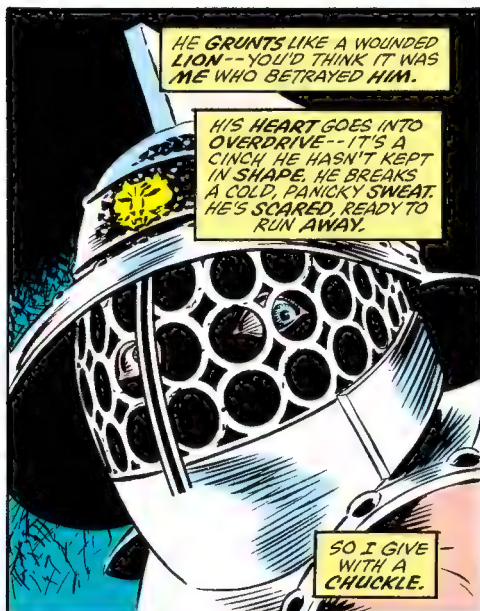


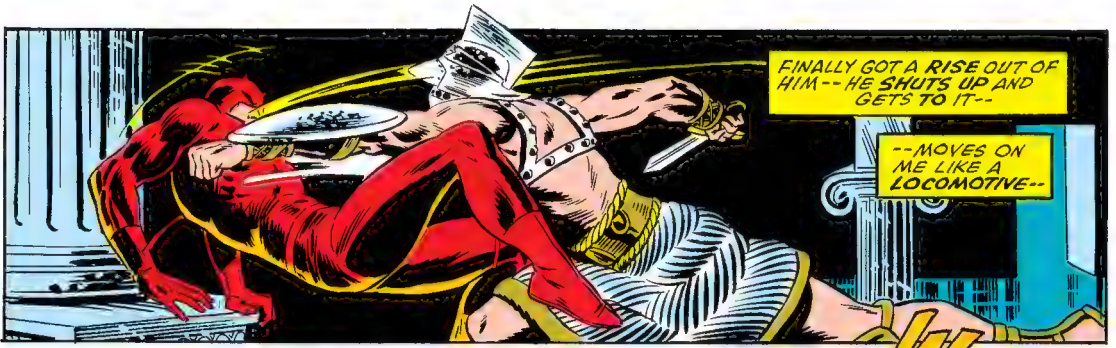
... I KNOW YOU KNOW DAREDEVIL ... UM...AND...IF YOU COULD ASK HIM TO...TO COME TO THE DIBNEY MUSEUM... I NEED... I DON'T WANNA...

...NO, DON'T TELL HIM THAT ...JUST SAY I'M...I'M SORRY ...KLIK

SORRY, ARE YOU, MELVIN? AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU...







FINALLY GOT A RISE OUT OF HIM-- HE SHUTS UP AND GETS TO IT--

--MOVES ON ME LIKE A LOCOMOTIVE--



I MAKE LIKE A SPEEDING BULLET.

WHOKK



CHUUK

THWAKK



TOO EASY-- MAYBE HE ISN'T WARMED UP--

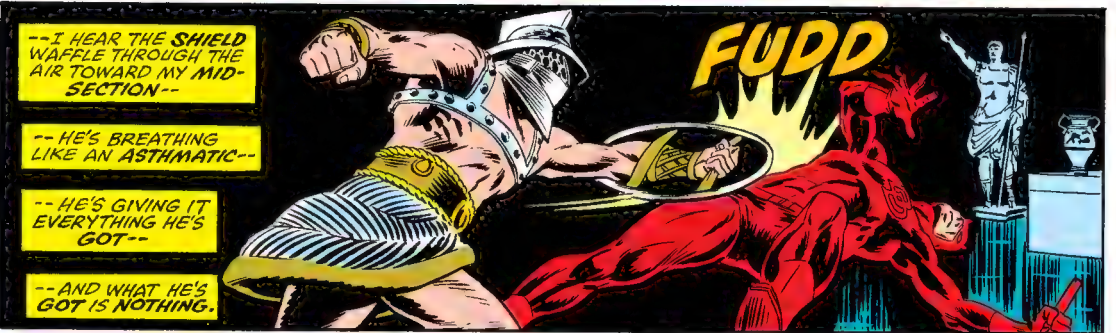
--I'M STILL WAITING TO BREAK A SWEAT MYSELF--

FAPPP

-- NO, HE'S WARMED UP ALL RIGHT -- BRINGING ONE UP FROM THE FLOOR--

--I COULD BE ACROSS THE ROOM IN THE TIME IT TAKES HIS FIST TO REACH MY JAW--

--I LET IT HIT ME JUST TO SEE WHAT'S IN IT--



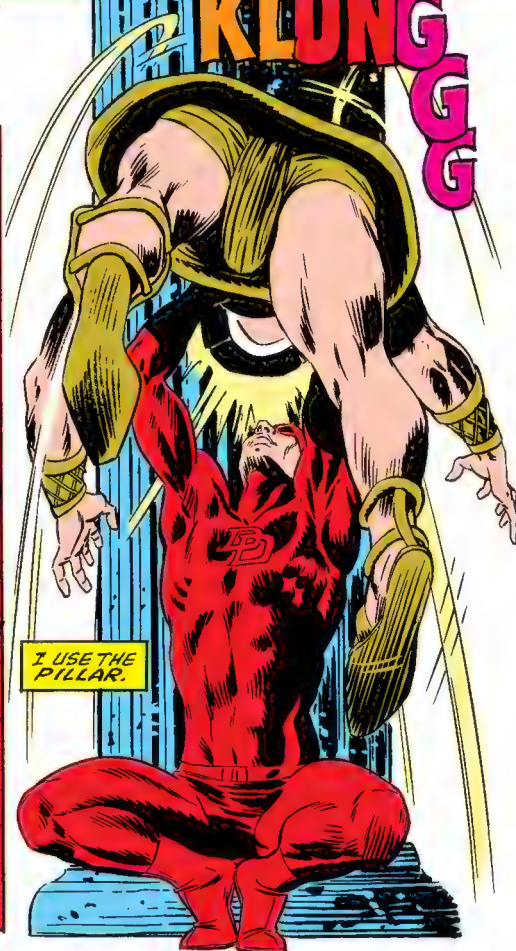
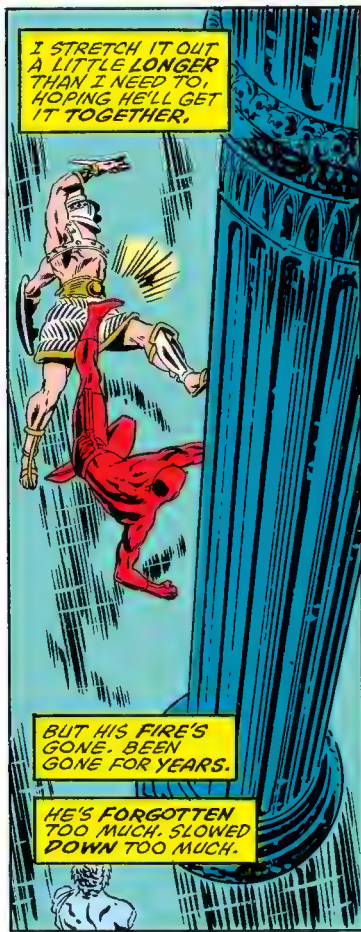
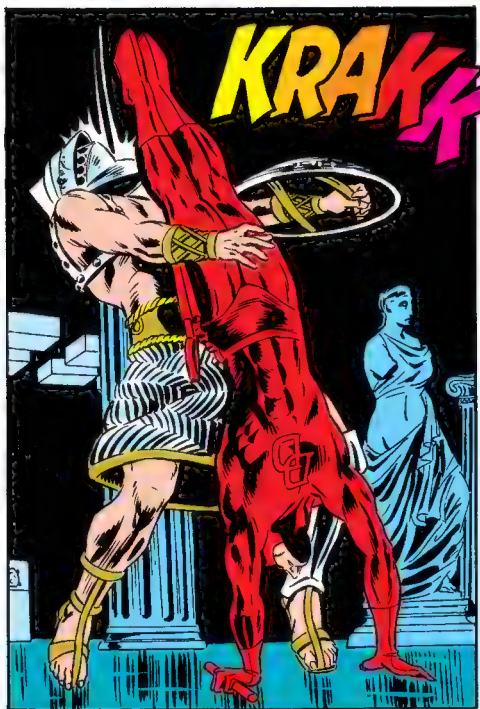
--I HEAR THE SHIELD WAFFLE THROUGH THE AIR TOWARD MY MID-SECTION--

-- HE'S BREATHING LIKE AN ASTHMATIC--

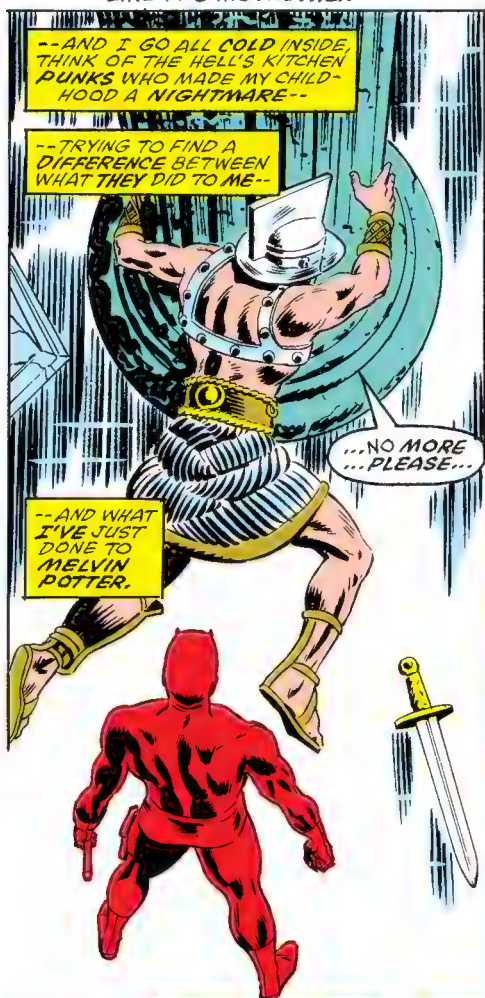
-- HE'S GIVING IT EVERYTHING HE'S GOT--

--AND WHAT HE'S GOT IS NOTHING.

FUDD



HE LIES THERE, CRYING, HUGGING THE PILLAR
LIKE IT'S HIS MOTHER--

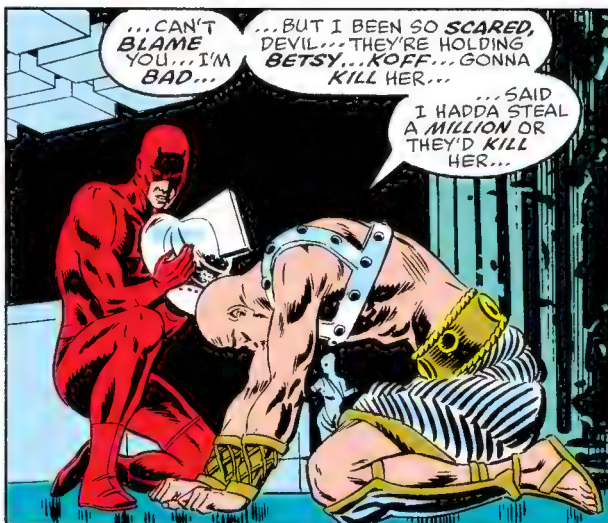


--AND I GO ALL COLD INSIDE,
THINK OF THE HELL'S KITCHEN
PUNKS WHO MADE MY CHILD-
HOOD A NIGHTMARE--

--TRYING TO FIND A
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
WHAT THEY DID TO ME--

--AND WHAT
I'VE JUST
DONE TO
MELVIN
POTTER.

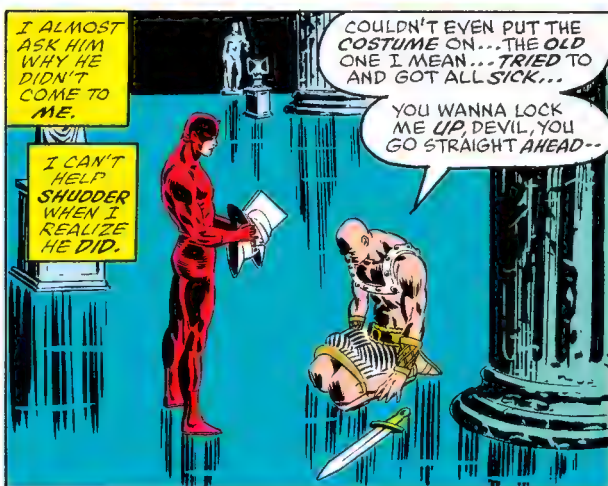
...NO MORE
...PLEASE...



...CAN'T
BLAME
YOU... I'M
BAD...

...BUT I BEEN SO SCARED,
DEVIL... THEY'RE HOLDING
BETSY... KOFF... GONNA
KILL HER...

... SAID
I HADDA STEAL
A MILLION OR
THEY'D KILL
HER...



I ALMOST
ASK HIM
WHY HE
DIDN'T
COME TO
ME.

I CAN'T
HELP
SHUDDER
WHEN I
REALIZE
HE DID.

COULDN'T EVEN PUT THE
COSTUME ON... THE OLD
ONE I MEAN... TRIED TO
AND GOT ALL SICK...

YOU WANNA LOCK
ME UP, DEVIL, YOU
GO STRAIGHT AHEAD--



--BUT HELP
BETSY.

I BEG
YOU.



HE BREAKS-- LIKE BIG
MEN DO, SEEMING TO
CAVE IN ON HIMSELF.

I FEEL THE FOG LIFT
FROM MY BRAIN FOR
THE FIRST TIME SINCE...



THE UGLY FEELING IN MY GUT IS
SHAME.

IT'S UP
TO ME
TO MAKE
THINGS
RIGHT.

